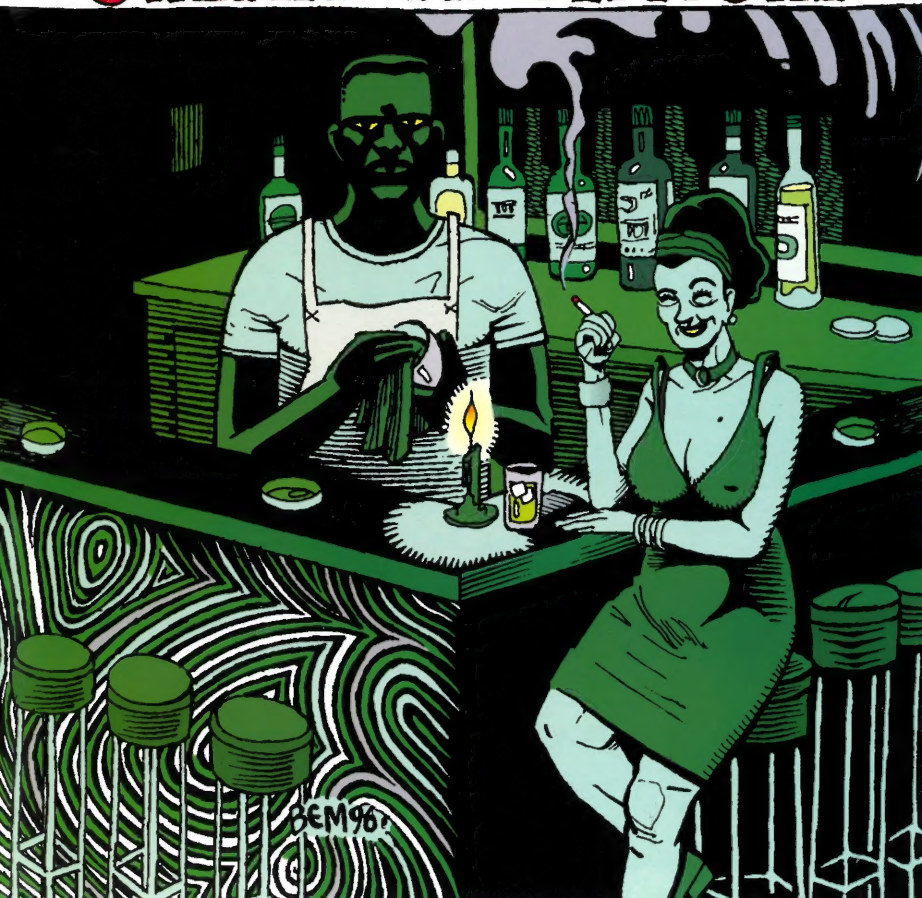
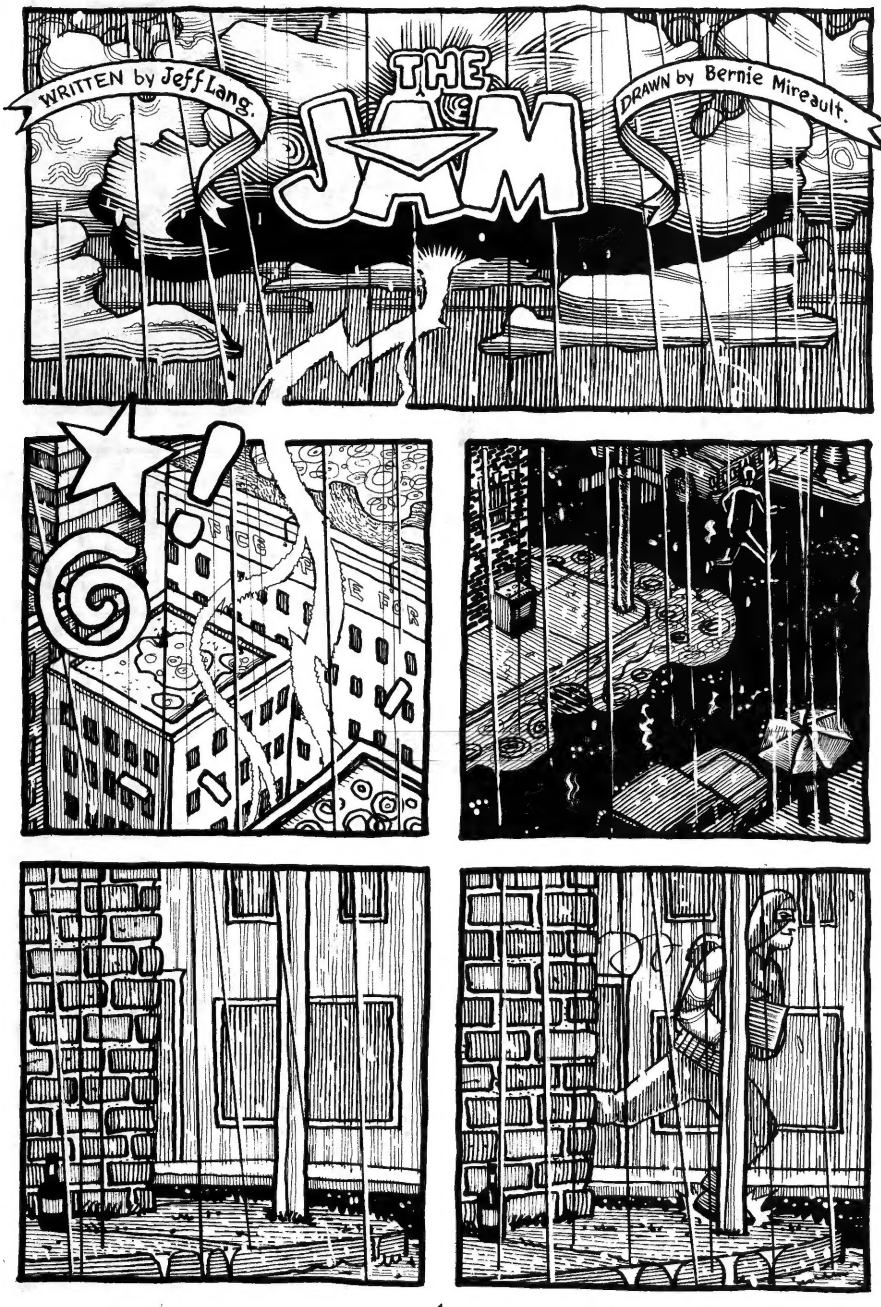
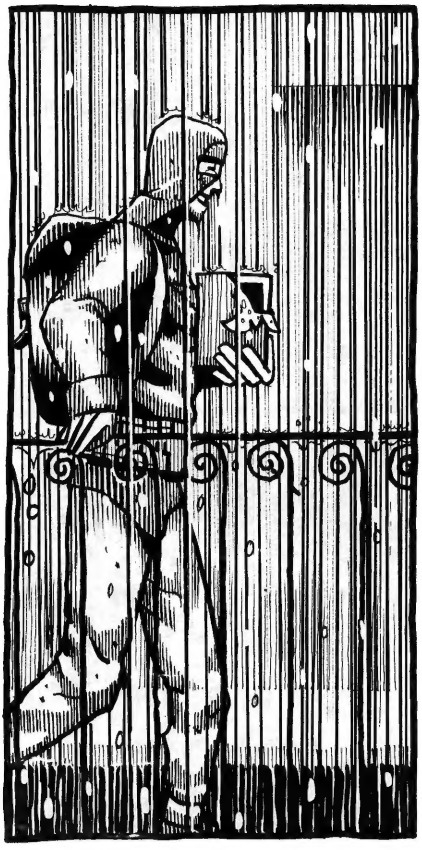
CALIBER COMICS
ISSUE 13
$2.95 USA $4.25 CAN

THE JAM

URBAN ADVENTURE




WRITTEN by Jeff Lang.
THE JAM
DRAWN by Bernie Mireault.



BAR
PROP

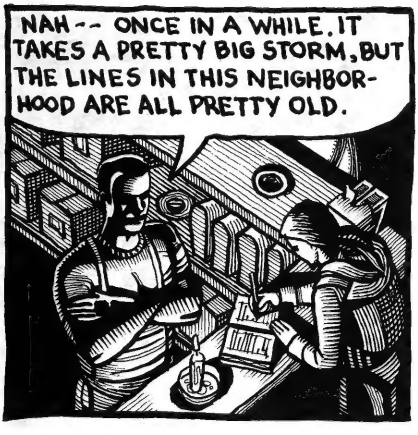
PHEW!

UH, WE'RE CLOSED NOW. ACCOUNTA THERE'S NO ELECTRIC.

I HAVE A ROOM HERE.

I CALLED ABOUT A RESERVATION THIS MORNING?

OH, OKAY. SURE. IT'S JUST THAT WITH NO LIGHTS--
IT'S THE HOOD, I KNOW. NO PROBLEM! THIS HAPPEN OFTEN? THE WHOLE NEIGHBORHOOD IS DARK.


NAH-- ONCE IN A WHILE. IT TAKES A PRETTY BIG STORM, BUT THE LINES IN THIS NEIGHBORHOOD ARE ALL PRETTY OLD.

WELL, IT GIVES THE PLACE ATMOSPHERE! GOT A CANDLE TO SPARE?
SURE. I KEEP A BOX HERE UNDER THE BAR.

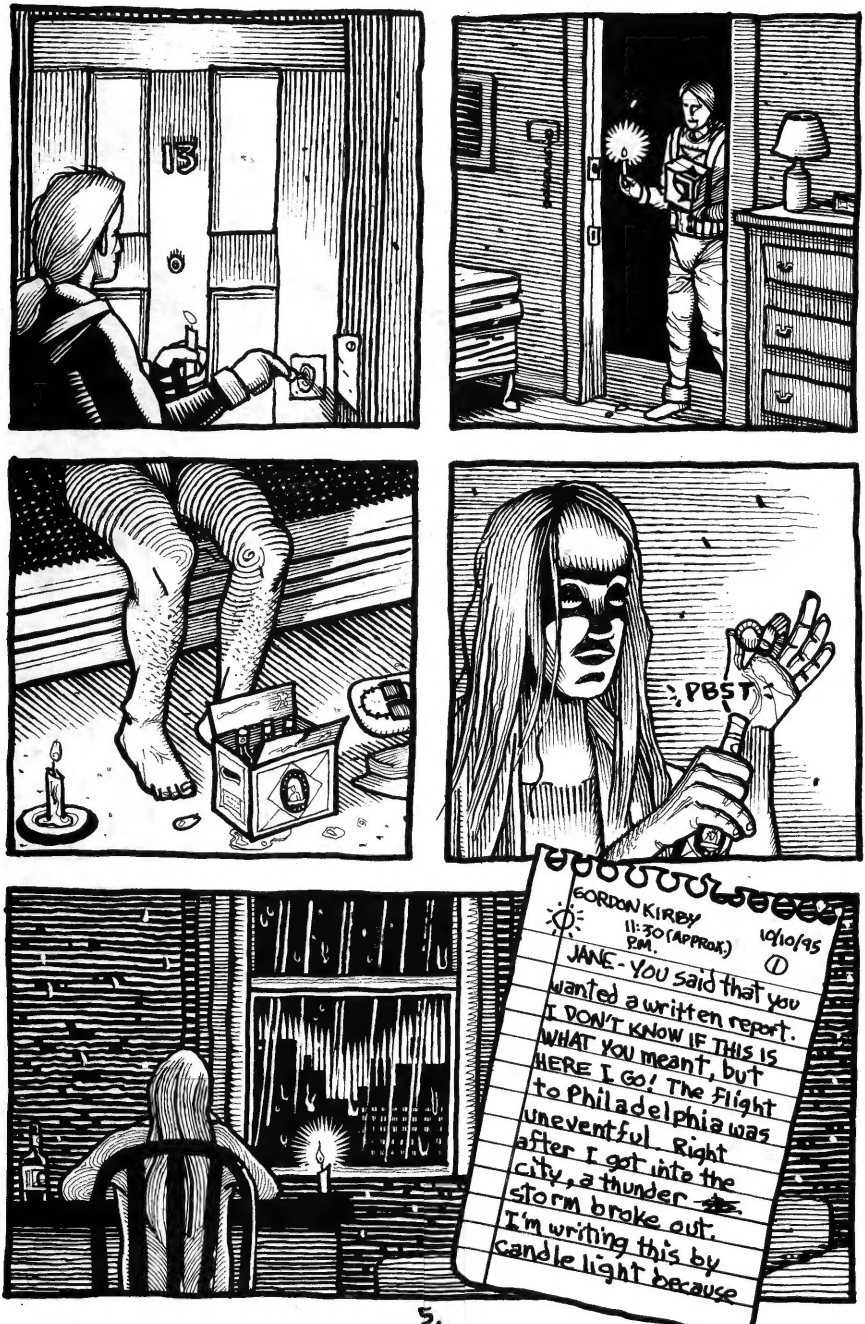
HI.

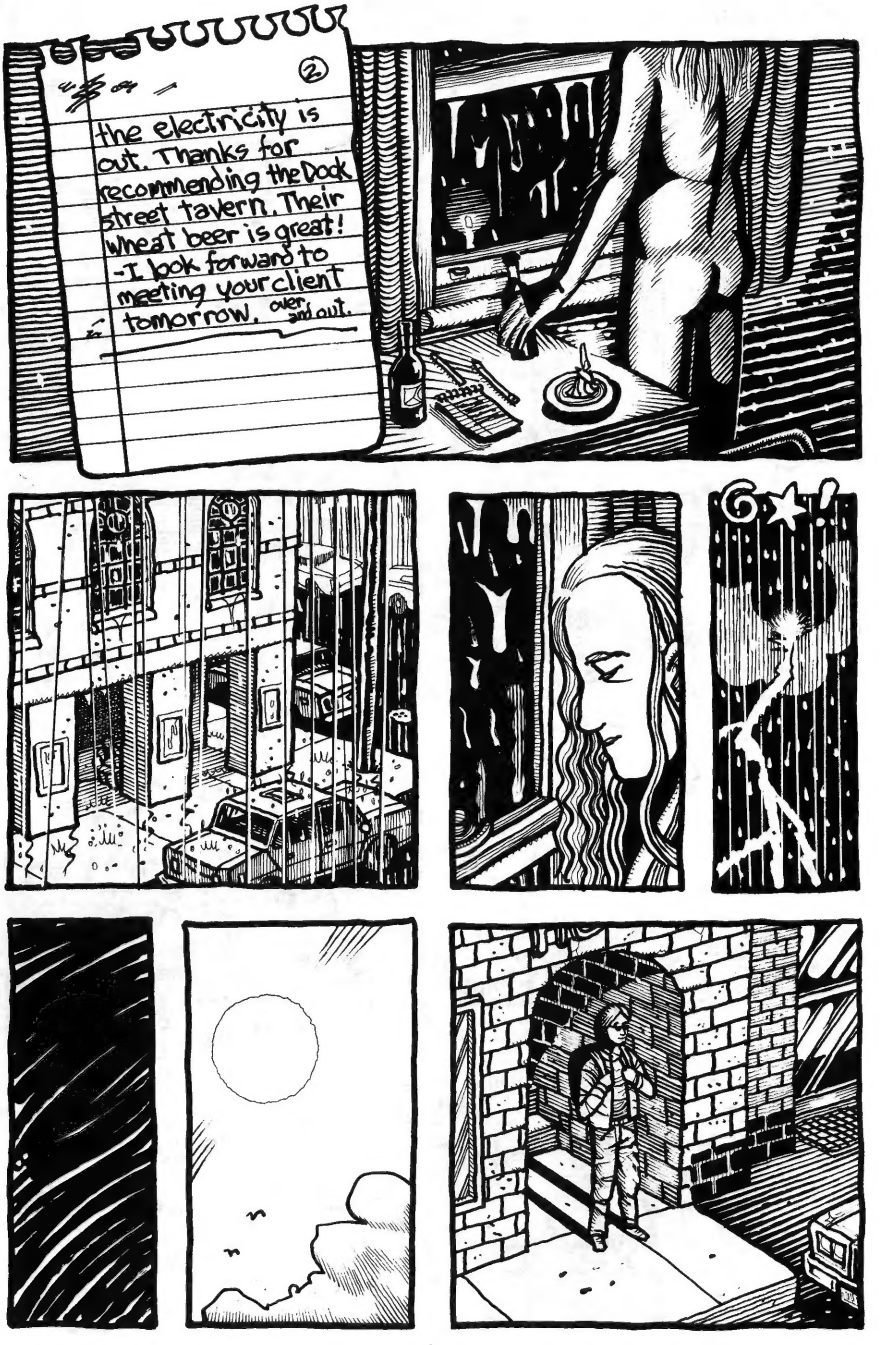
YOU WANT TO JOIN US? SEEING AS YOU'RE STAYING HERE --
THANKS, BUT I'VE BEEN UP FOR QUITE A WHILE ...

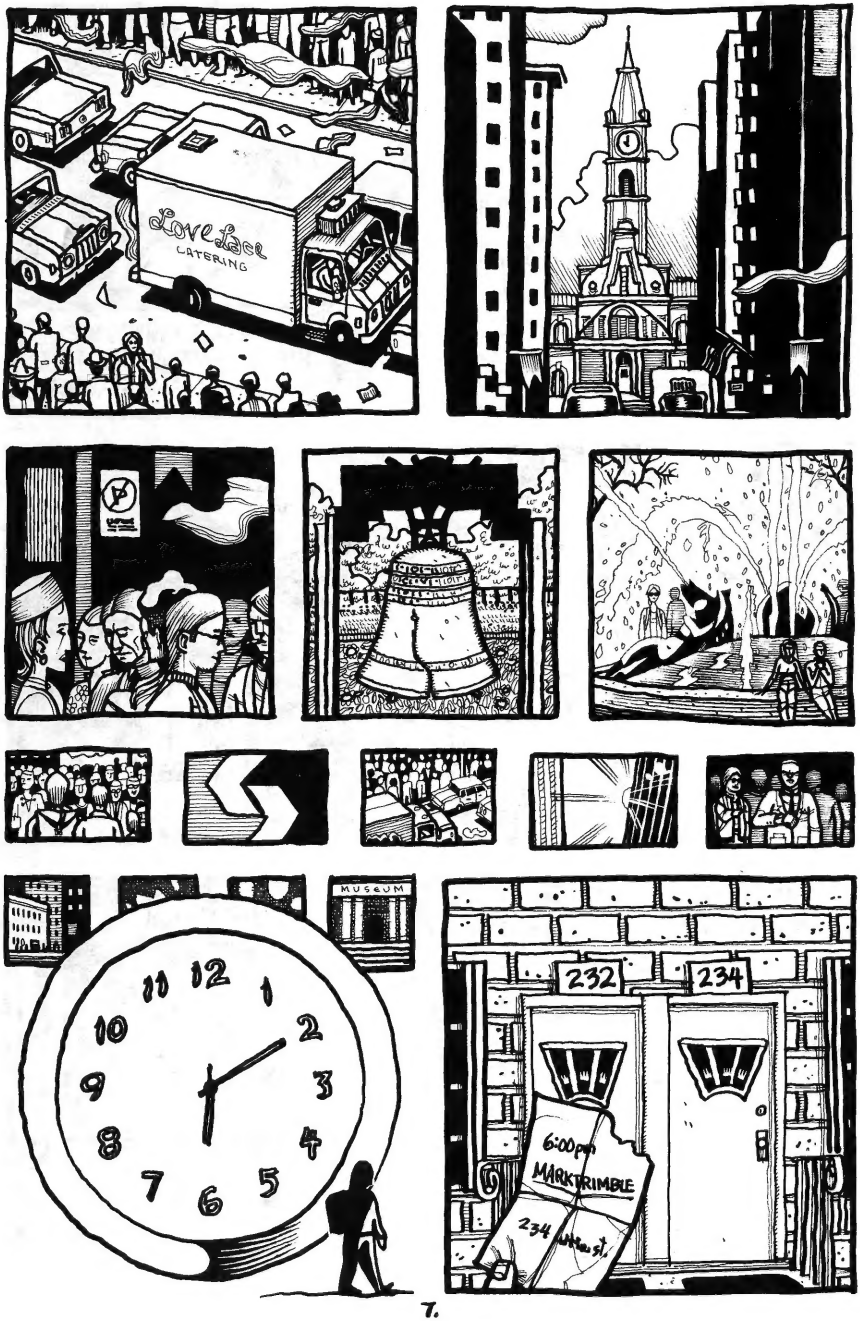
... GUESS I'LL GO TO BED.

GOOD NIGHT.

NICE KID. WEIRD OUT FIT.

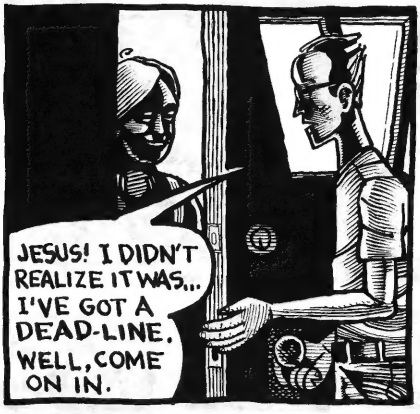

13
PBST
GORDON KIRBY
11:30 (APPROX.) P.M.
10/10/95
①
JANE - YOU said that you wanted a written report. I DON'T KNOW IF THIS IS WHAT YOU meant, but HERE I GO! The flight to Philadelphia was uneventful. Right after I got into the city, a thunder storm broke out. I'm writing this by candle light because


②
the electricity is out. Thanks for recommending the Dock street tavern. Their wheat beer is great! -I look forward to meeting your client tomorrow. over and out.


Love Last
CATERING
MUSEUM
232
234
6:00pm
MARK TRIMBLE
234 Main St.

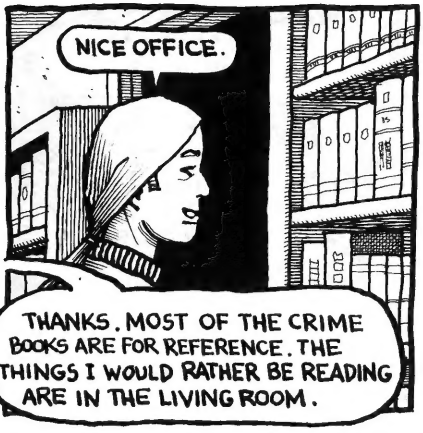
232
234

HI. CAN I HELP YOU?
HELLO. I THINK WE HAVE AN APPOINTMENT. I WORK FOR JANE MARBLE.


JESUS! I DIDN'T REALIZE IT WAS... I'VE GOT A DEAD-LINE. WELL, COME ON IN.

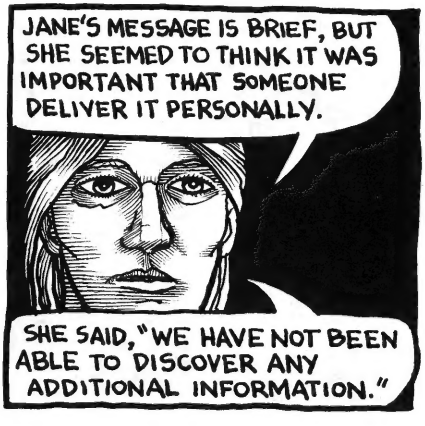
LET'S GO INTO MY OFFICE.

I HAVE TO FAX OFF THIS FILE AND THEN WE CAN TALK. MAKE YOURSELF AT HOME.


NICE OFFICE.
THANKS. MOST OF THE CRIME BOOKS ARE FOR REFERENCE. THE THINGS I WOULD RATHER BE READING ARE IN THE LIVING ROOM.

OKAY, THAT'S DONE. PLEASE SIT DOWN. CAN I GET YOU SOMETHING TO DRINK? BEER?

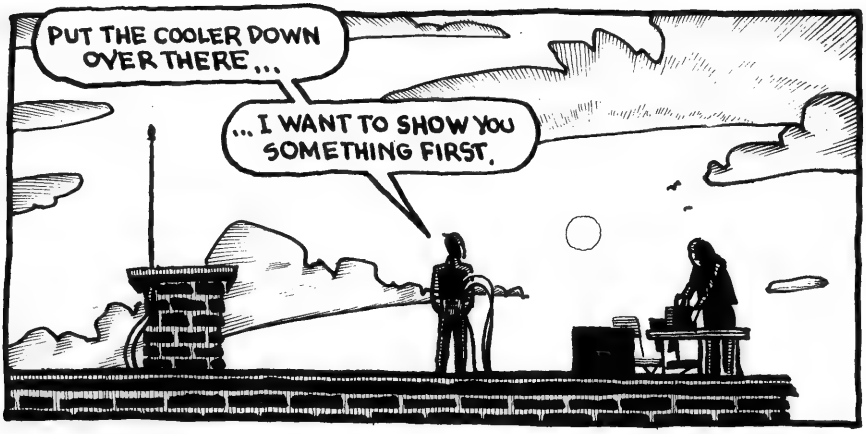
NO, THANKS. I DON'T KNOW HOW LONG THIS IS GOING TO TAKE.


JANE'S MESSAGE IS BRIEF, BUT SHE SEEMED TO THINK IT WAS IMPORTANT THAT SOMEONE DELIVER IT PERSONALLY.
SHE SAID, "WE HAVE NOT BEEN ABLE TO DISCOVER ANY ADDITIONAL INFORMATION."

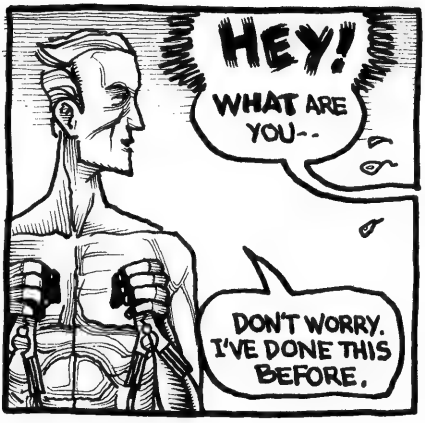
SHIT.

WELL, I CAN'T SAY I'M SURPRISED. TELL JANE I SAID THANKS. TELL HER TO SEND THE BILL.
AND THANK YOU. IT'S A LONG WAY TO COME JUST TO DELIVER ONE LINE.

SHE MENTIONED ONE OTHER THING.
SHE SAID, "ASK HIM ABOUT THE KINETIC."
WELL, JANE HAD NO RIGHT TO--
SHE SAID THAT IF YOU TOLD ME THE WHOLE STORY, SHE'D TEAR UP THE BILL.
WHY WOULD SHE DO THAT?
I DON'T KNOW. JANE MOVES IN MYSTERIOUS WAYS.
...HER WONDERS TO BEHOLD.
HMPH. THE WHOLE STORY.
WELL, C'MON. LET'S GET SOMETHING TO DRINK AND GO UP TO THE ROOF. BEER OKAY?
YUP.
THERE'S A NICE BREEZE UP HERE IN THE EVENING.
...AND IT'S PRIVATE.


PUT THE COOLER DOWN OVER THERE...
...I WANT TO SHOW YOU SOMETHING FIRST.

THIS IS A BATTERY CHARGER. YOU KNOW, FOR CAR BATTERIES.
UH HUH.


HEY!
WHAT ARE YOU--
DON'T WORRY. I'VE DONE THIS BEFORE.

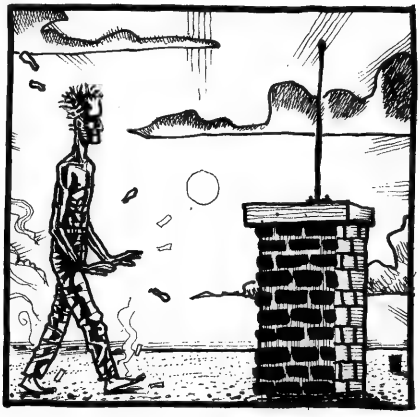
DZZZZZZ

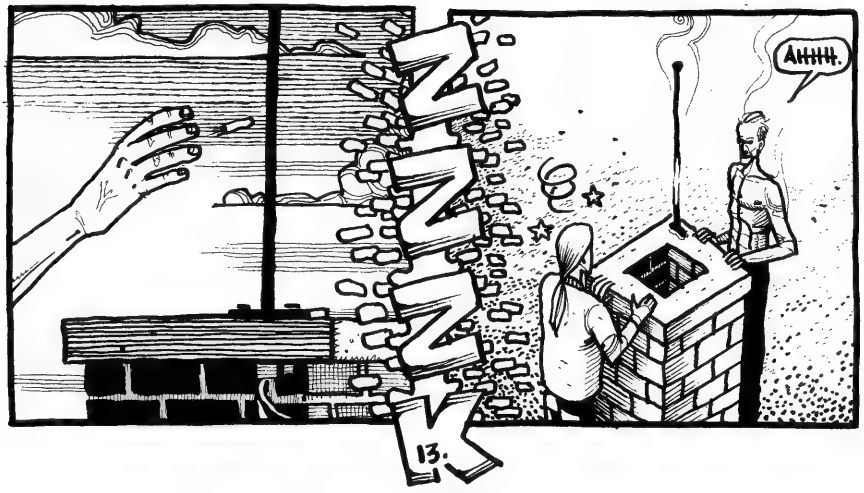
OKAY...
ZZZZZZZZZZZZ

YOUR CLOTHES ARE SMOKING.
THAT'LL HAPPEN... BETTER NOT GET TOO CLOSE. I THROW OFF BALL LIGHTNING SOMETIMES.

I'M GOING TO DROP THE CLIPS NOW. WATCH YOUR FEET.

OKAY.
I'M GOING TO DISCHARGE NOW.




ZZZZZK
AHHHH.

IT'S THIRSTY WORK.
WANT A BEER?
YES.

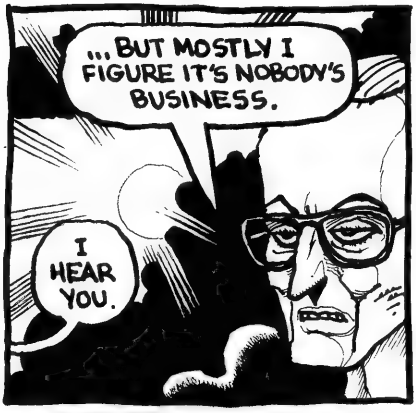
I TAKE IT THAT THIS HAS SOMETHING TO DO WITH WHAT JANE WAS CHECKING ON FOR YOU?
YEAH. SORT OF. I DIDN'T WANT TO GET TO THE MIDDLE OF THE STORY AND HAVE TO DEMONSTRATE. ESPECIALLY IF WE WERE GOING TO BE DRINKING.

SO -- ANY EXPLANATION FOR THIS? STRANGE BEING FROM ANOTHER PLANET? PARENTS WORKED WITH URANIUM 232?
NONE THAT I KNOW OF?

THEN, YOU'RE THE KINETIC.
WELL, YEAH. KIND OF. IT'S ALL PART OF THE STORY. YOU KNOW, YOU'RE TAKING THIS ALL VERY CALMLY.

I AM?! I SURE DON'T FEEL CALM! LIFE ON EARTH WILL NEVER BE THE SAME. YOU'VE BLOWN MY MIND! I LOVE IT!
HAHAHAHA

IT STARTED WHEN I WAS ABOUT 12, AND BUILT OVER THE YEARS. I'M HEAVIER AND STRONGER THAN I LOOK. THERE ARE TIMES WHEN THE WORLD SEEMS TO SLOW DOWN, THOUGH THAT MIGHT BE JUST MY BRAIN SPEEDING UP. SOMETIMES IT SCARES ME...

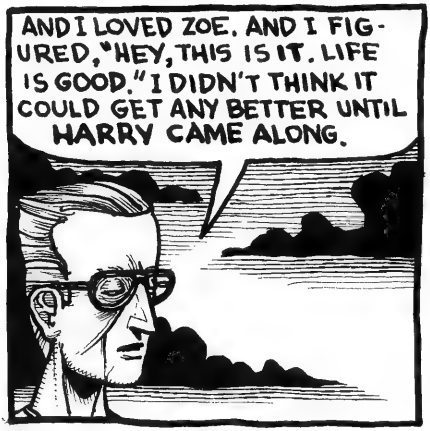


AND THEN WE GOT MARRIED. FIVE YEARS AGO, OUR SON, HARRY, WAS BORN AND THAT'S PRETTY MUCH EVERYTHING.
EXCEPT...

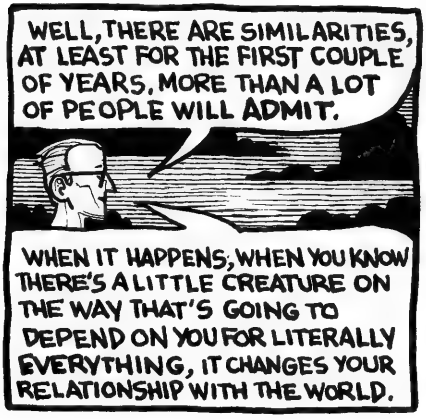
EXCEPT FOR THE JACKET.
THE JACKET?

YEAH-- A BOWLING JACKET, IT LOOKED LIKE IT WAS FROM THE 60's. LEATHER SLEEVES. HAND-SEWN PATCHES.
FLEA MARKET

NOBODY HAD EVER HEARD OF THE TEAM. BUT SOMEHOW THAT MADE IT EVEN BETTER. MAN, I LOVED THAT JACKET.
THE KINETICS


AND I LOVED ZOE. AND I FIGURED, "HEY, THIS IS IT. LIFE IS GOOD." I DIDN'T THINK IT COULD GET ANY BETTER UNTIL HARRY CAME ALONG.

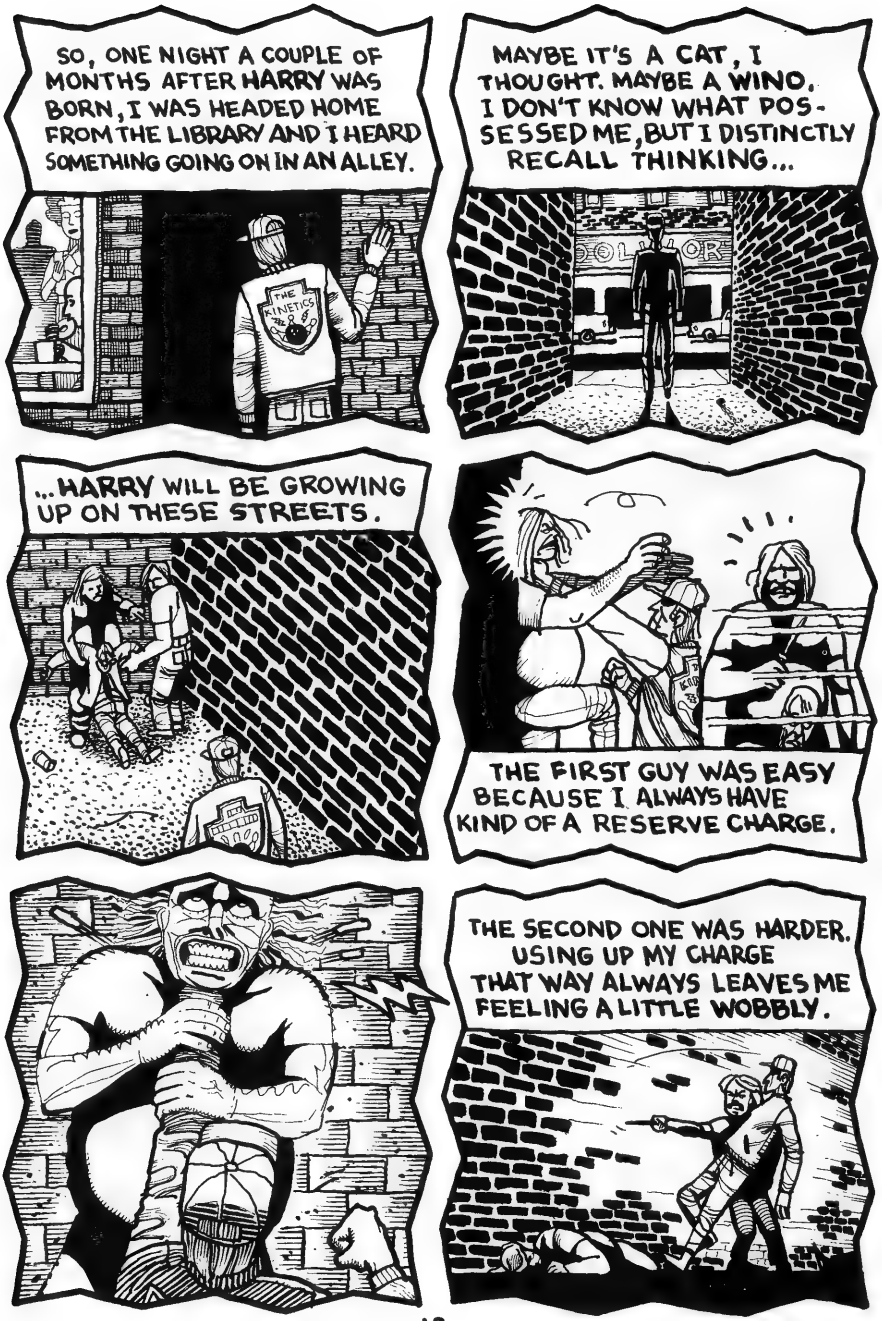
YOU HAVE ANY KIDS?
NO, MAYBE SOMEDAY.
I HAVE A DOG.

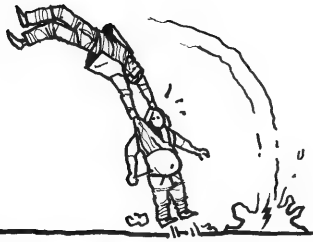

WELL, THERE ARE SIMILARITIES, AT LEAST FOR THE FIRST COUPLE OF YEARS, MORE THAN A LOT OF PEOPLE WILL ADMIT.
WHEN IT HAPPENS, WHEN YOU KNOW THERE'S A LITTLE CREATURE ON THE WAY THAT'S GOING TO DEPEND ON YOU FOR LITERALLY EVERYTHING, IT CHANGES YOUR RELATIONSHIP WITH THE WORLD.

BEFORE I BECAME A FATHER, I WANTED TO LIVE IN A WORLD THAT WAS JUST AND FAIR.
AMEN!

AFTER HARRY WAS BORN...

... I JUST WANTED THE WORLD TO BE SAFE.

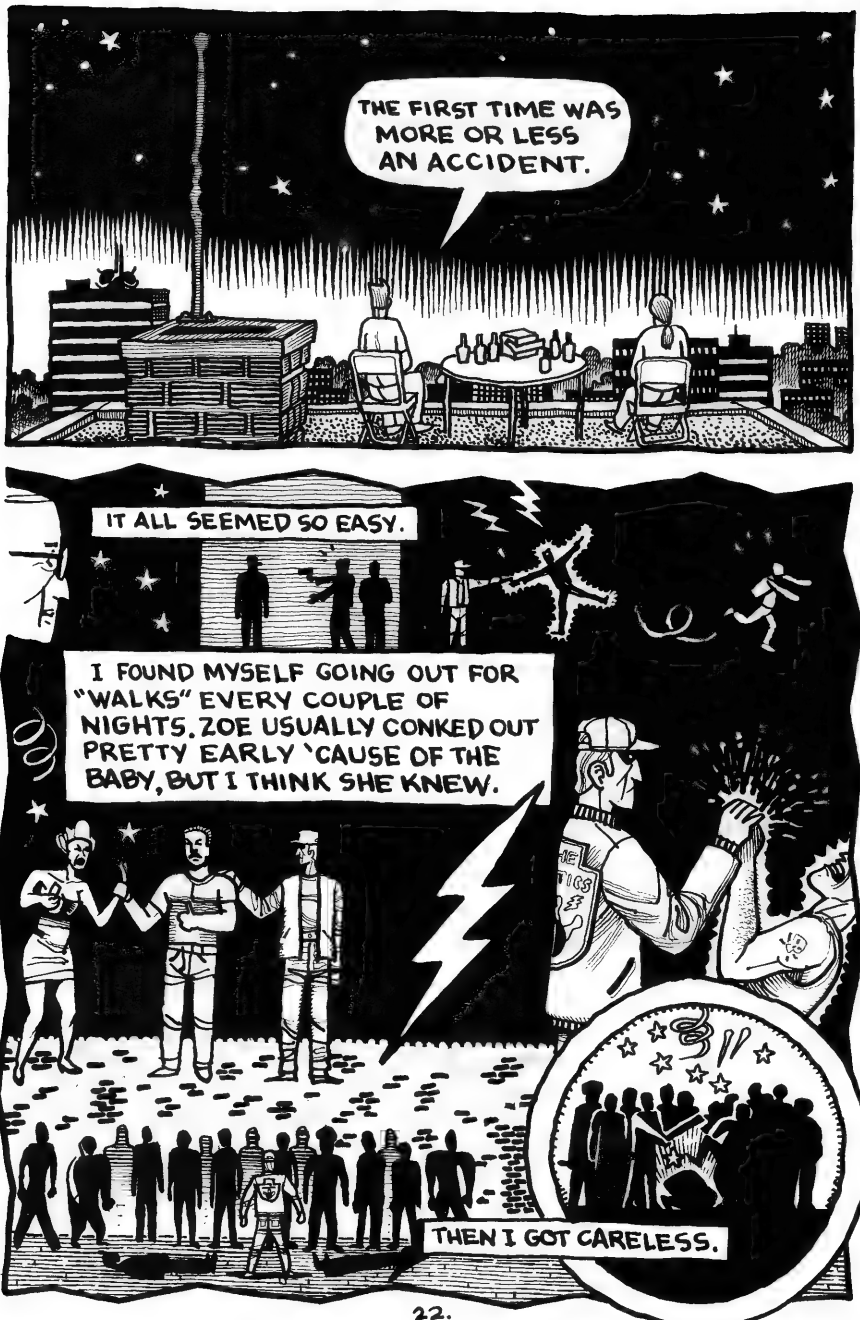

SO, ONE NIGHT A COUPLE OF MONTHS AFTER HARRY WAS BORN, I WAS HEADED HOME FROM THE LIBRARY AND I HEARD SOMETHING GOING ON IN AN ALLEY.
THE KINETICS
MAYBE IT'S A CAT, I THOUGHT. MAYBE A WINO. I DON'T KNOW WHAT POSSESSED ME, BUT I DISTINCTLY RECALL THINKING...
...HARRY WILL BE GROWING UP ON THESE STREETS.
THE FIRST GUY WAS EASY BECAUSE I ALWAYS HAVE KIND OF A RESERVE CHARGE.
THE SECOND ONE WAS HARDER. USING UP MY CHARGE THAT WAY ALWAYS LEAVES ME FEELING A LITTLE WOBBLY.

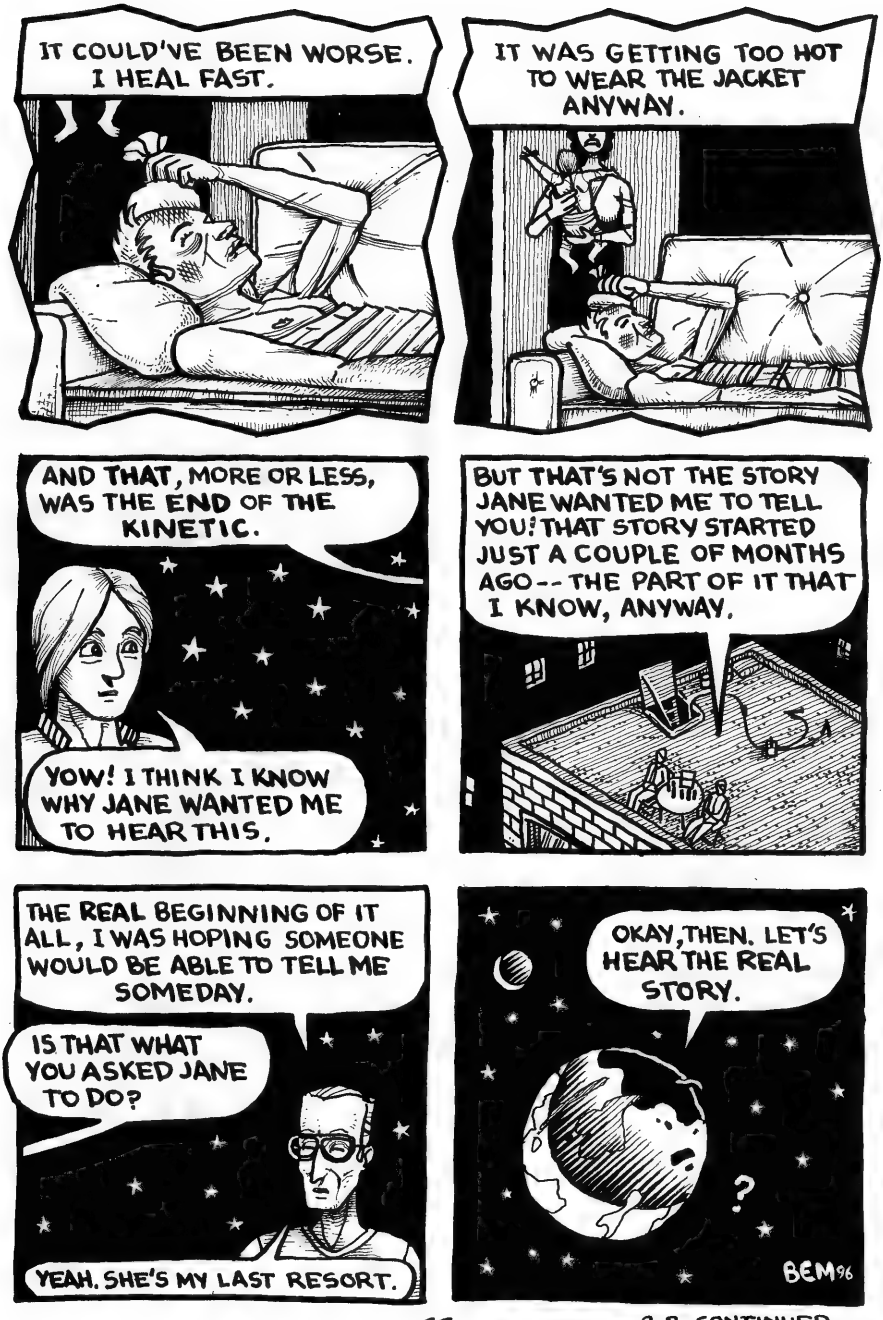


... AND SOMETIMES IT FEELS LIKE MY BODY KNOWS HOW TO DO THINGS WITHOUT MY HAVING TO THINK ABOUT IT.

THERE WAS A POLICE CAR RIGHT OUTSIDE THE ALLEY. SOMETIMES THEY REALLY ARE AROUND WHEN YOU NEED THEM.
NUTS
HEY, OFFICER. HEY, THIS GUY WAS JUST MUGGED. THE ONES THAT DID IT ARE LAID OUT IN THE ALLEY.
YO, PAL.
GET BACK HERE.
HEY!
IT'S OKAY, MISTER. WE'LL GET YA TO THE EMERGENCY ROOM.
JEEZ, THAT'S WEIRD. I'M SURE THAT HE WENT IN HERE.
FUCKIN' WEIRD.
HE WAS A "KINETIC". THAT'S WHAT HIS JACKET SAID. MUST BE SOME KIND OF GANG.
UH-HUH.

AND THEN I RAN HOME AND LOOKED IN AT MY SLEEPING SON AND TOLD ZOE ALL ABOUT IT, THEN WE MADE LOVE FOR THE FIRST TIME SINCE SHE HAD THE BABY.
HARRY WAS EVEN GOOD ENOUGH TO WAIT UNTIL WE WERE DONE BEFORE HE WOKE UP.
@#?
!6?
#?
Z
Z
IT WAS A GOOD NIGHT.


THE FIRST TIME WAS MORE OR LESS AN ACCIDENT.
IT ALL SEEMED SO EASY.
I FOUND MYSELF GOING OUT FOR "WALKS" EVERY COUPLE OF NIGHTS. ZOE USUALLY CONKED OUT PRETTY EARLY 'CAUSE OF THE BABY, BUT I THINK SHE KNEW.
THEN I GOT CARELESS.


IT COULD'VE BEEN WORSE. I HEAL FAST.
IT WAS GETTING TOO HOT TO WEAR THE JACKET ANYWAY.
AND THAT, MORE OR LESS, WAS THE END OF THE KINETIC.
YOW! I THINK I KNOW WHY JANE WANTED ME TO HEAR THIS.
BUT THAT'S NOT THE STORY JANE WANTED ME TO TELL YOU! THAT STORY STARTED JUST A COUPLE OF MONTHS AGO-- THE PART OF IT THAT I KNOW, ANYWAY.
THE REAL BEGINNING OF IT ALL, I WAS HOPING SOMEONE WOULD BE ABLE TO TELL ME SOMEDAY.
IS THAT WHAT YOU ASKED JANE TO DO?
YEAH. SHE'S MY LAST RESORT.
OKAY, THEN. LET'S HEAR THE REAL STORY.
?
BEM96

2 B CONTINUED.

BEWARE OF THE FUNNY FARM FREAKS
© 1990
HOW SWEET IT IS!
STORY & PENCIL: David Abu Bacha
INKS: BEMSO.
OK, BERNIE. WHAT YOU FEEL LIKE EATING?
ANYTHING.
RICE CAKES?
ANYTHING BUT RICE CAKES.
HERE. HAVE A BANANA.
TANX.
OH NO! THIS ONE'S GOT A BLACK SPOT ON IT!
SHO?
SO I DUNNO... IT'S A TEXTURAL THING.
IF I BITE INTO THE MUSHY PART, I'LL PUKE RIGHT ACROSS THE ROOM!
HA!HA!
MY DAD'S TOTALLY THE OPPOSITE! HE LIKES 'EM COMPLETELY BLACK!
EEU

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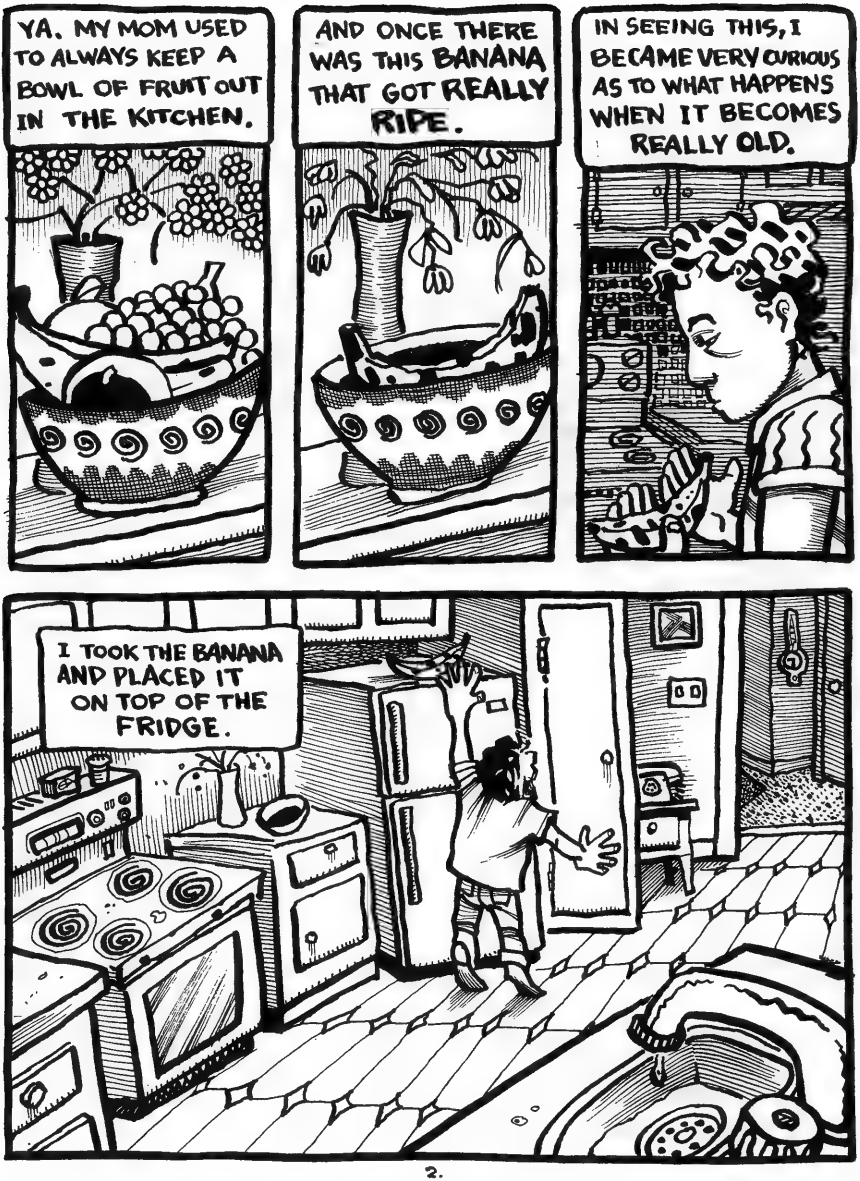
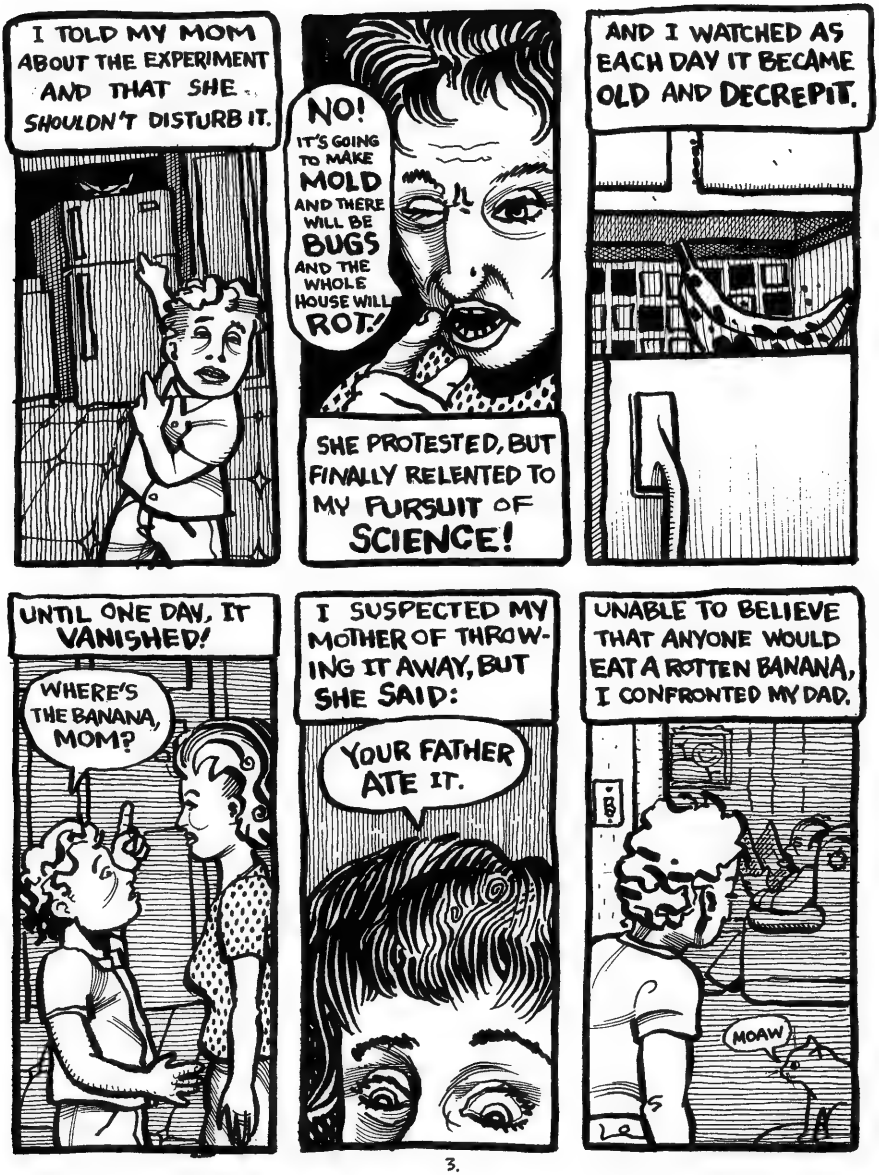

YA. MY MOM USED TO ALWAYS KEEP A BOWL OF FRUIT OUT IN THE KITCHEN.
AND ONCE THERE WAS THIS BANANA THAT GOT REALLY RIPE.
IN SEEING THIS, I BECAME VERY CURIOUS AS TO WHAT HAPPENS WHEN IT BECOMES REALLY OLD.
I TOOK THE BANANA AND PLACED IT ON TOP OF THE FRIDGE.


I TOLD MY MOM ABOUT THE EXPERIMENT AND THAT SHE SHOULDN'T DISTURB IT.
NO! IT'S GOING TO MAKE MOLD AND THERE WILL BE BUGS AND THE WHOLE HOUSE WILL ROT!
SHE PROTESTED, BUT FINALLY RELENTED TO MY PURSUIT OF SCIENCE!
AND I WATCHED AS EACH DAY IT BECAME OLD AND DECREPIT.
UNTIL ONE DAY, IT VANISHED!
WHERE'S THE BANANA, MOM?
I SUSPECTED MY MOTHER OF THROWING IT AWAY, BUT SHE SAID:
YOUR FATHER ATE IT.
UNABLE TO BELIEVE THAT ANYONE WOULD EAT A ROTTEN BANANA, I CONFRONTED MY DAD.
MOAW

AND HE SAID, "YEAH! WHEN THEY'RE BLACK, DAT'S WHEN THEY'RE SWEET!"
BLA
WOAH!
SSPLOOCH
WHAT HAPPENED, BERNI? DID YA BITE INTO THE MUSHY PART?
COUGH IK AK
LET'S JUST SHUT-UP ABOUT BANANAS FER AWHILE, OK?
END.

ONE RAINY EVENING IN THE DRAWING ROOM

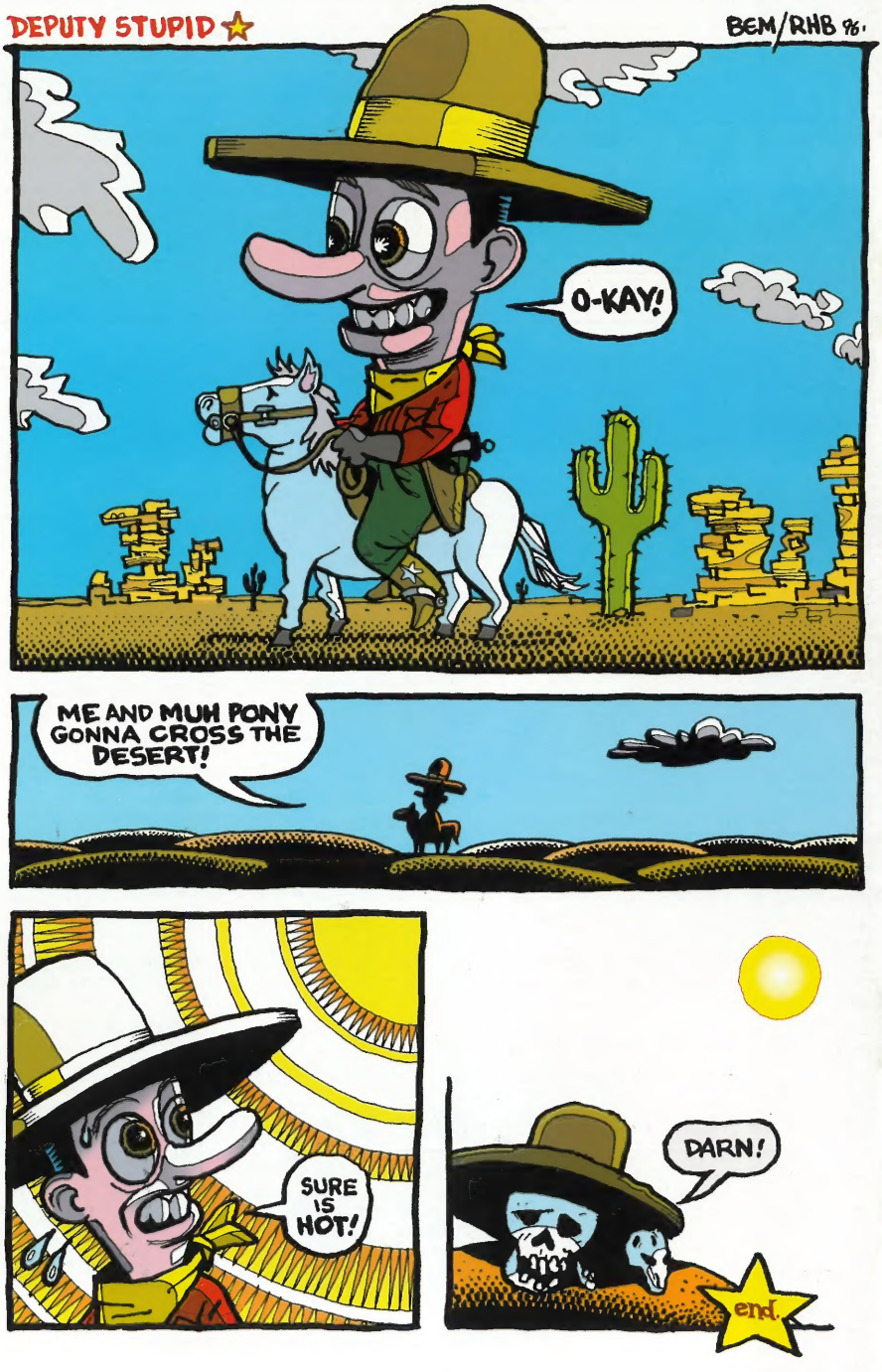
HEH-HEH
MAN-O-MAN, THEY JUST DON'T WRITE 'EM LIKE THIS ANY MORE!
David Abu Bacha
CHILL
READ
OK
FUN
YEAH, LISSIN TA THIS: A WAVE OF NAUSEA SWEPT OVER HIM AS QUIVERING PIECES OF HIS WIFE'S BODY RAINED DOWN FROM NOWHERE!
HEH-HEH. QUIVERING PIECES
SHOC
INSPIRING.
WE SHOULD TRY TO WRITE SOMETHING THIS GOOD!
GIMME SOME SLACK, JACK!
ALRIGHT I'LL DO IT MYSELF.
AND I'LL CALL IT ER UH UM UH..

HEAD TECHNICIAN

ALL THE BRAINS MUST WORK TOGETHER IN SYNCRONISTIC ORDER. SO I REPLACE THE WORN OUT PIECES AND MAINTAIN THE PRECISE MECHANI
ITS A JOB.
THATS IT FER YOU, BUB!
STILL ALIVE GANGRENE.
LOOKS LIKE YER GOIN' TO THE SCRAP HEAP.
SOMETIMES I QUESTION WHAT WE DO IN THE LABORATORY...

HA! "HEAD TECHNICIAN" WHAT A LOSER TITLE.
MOA?
SHUT UP! I'M TRYIN' TA CONCENTRATE ON THE TWIST ENDING!.. UH.. HOW D'YA SPELL "UNDULATING"?
CLUMPS OF FLESH SLOWLY SE AS AN OULATING ORROR!! ULTITUDE OUTSTRETCH AND CLOSE AN IRON-GRIP AROUND MY NECK!!
FECKLESS MORTAL! AFTER I INCUBATE YOUR HEAD, YOU SHALL KNOW THE FULL GLORY OF YOUR OWN EXPERIMENT!
NYAHAHAHAHA
OUCH
HEH-HEH
PERFECT.

MY GOD! IT IS PERFECT!
STORY TELLING IN IT'S MOST SIMPLE AND BEAUTIFUL FORM!
OBTAINING THE CREDIT FOR THAT WORK MAY WELL BE WORTH THE EFFORT OF MURDER!
HA-HA! WHAT AM I THINKING? ABSURD. NO.
BUT YES!!
I WILL KILL YOU AND CALL THIS COMIC MY OWN!!!
AARG...
LATER..
AW, MAN! I GOT DAVE'S BLOOD ALL OVER THE PAGES! THEY'RE RUINED!
WELL, I ALWAYS WANTED TO GET AHEAD IN THE COMIC BOOK BUSINESS!
HEH HEH
END!


DEPUTY STUPID
BEM/RHB 98
O-KAY!
ME AND MUH PONY GONNA CROSS THE DESERT!
SURE IS HOT!
DARN!
end.